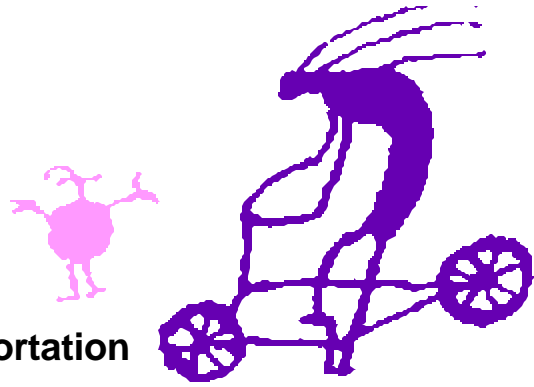


# By-Cycle

Bicycle News from the  
Maricopa County Department of Transportation



March 2000

Volume 1:3



## Maricopa County Trails

Maricopa County is embarking on an ambitious program to develop a countywide trail system. The trail will be created by linking open space projects and trail systems into one big loop around the county. Some of the trails already exist, some are in the planning stages, and some might have to be created from scratch. The trails cross through many jurisdictions, communities, and properties, so partnerships and agreements are a key to creating the larger single trail. Maricopa County will serve as the facilitator to bring all the different links together. For more information on the project and how you can get involved go to [www.maricopa.gov/trail/](http://www.maricopa.gov/trail/)

## MCDOT Bicycle Web Page

[www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Bicycle/index.htm](http://www.mcdot.maricopa.gov/Bicycle/index.htm)

The Bicycle Program web page is now up and running. All the "bike stuff" has been put in one, easy to use location. This is just a start. Things to be added soon include local route maps, safety information, commuting tips, and bicycle laws.

## Meetings

### March 2000

#### Public Meeting Schedule

The public meeting schedule is subject to change. Please call to confirm dates and times. For on-line information go to: [www.maricopa.gov/](http://www.maricopa.gov/)

#### 3.6.2000

##### Queen Creek/Arizona Ave.-McQueen

Location: Bogle Jr. High

1600 W. Queen Creek

Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Contact: Sami Ayoub, 602.506.4662

#### 3.8.2000

##### Maricopa County Trails Commission

Location: Maricopa County Parks &

Recreation, 3475 W. Durango St.

Phoenix.

Time: 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

602.506.2930

#### 3.9.2000

##### Loop 303/McDowell-Indian School

Location: Millenium Jr. High Cafeteria

14802 W. Wigwam Blvd.

Time: 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Contact: Sami Ayoub, 602.506.4662

#### 3.14.2000

##### MCDOT Bicycle Advisory Committee

MCDOT – Maricopa Room

2901 W. Durango Street

Phoenix, AZ 85009

Time: 2:30 p.m.

## Walking and Bicycling into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

“Creating an Off-Street Path System  
in an Urban Environment.”

April 25-26, 2000

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel

Cost: \$88

To receive a registration packet (mailed out in February 2000), please call Maureen DeCindis at Valley Metro 602.534.1814 or e-mail [mdecindis@vm.maricopa.gov](mailto:mdecindis@vm.maricopa.gov) and leave your name and address. Sponsors: ADOT, FHWA, MAG, RPTA

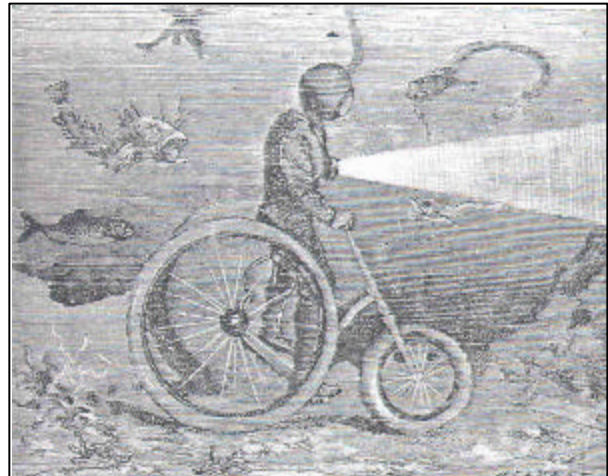
### Arterial Streets Should Have Bike Lanes

By Reed Kempton

*The following article appeared in the November/December issue of Arizona Planning, the newsletter of the Arizona Planning Association.*

All arterial streets should have bicycle lanes. There are many reasons but the most obvious one is that bicyclists go to the same places that motorists do. Nearly all of our destination points are on them. Most of us work and shop in businesses located on arterial streets. Our shopping centers, grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, and government offices are not found on collector or local streets. They are strategically located at or near arterial street intersections. Building a bicycle network using collector streets is like putting in a freeway with no off ramps. It gets the traveler close to his destination without providing a way to actually reach it.

A comprehensive transportation plan should provide access to all destination points for all users. Our current system is not comprehensive. It is a single-mode system designed specifically for the automobile. With this system in place, it is not surprising that nearly everyone drives a



**Valley citizen enjoys leisurely bike ride  
around the Tempe Town Lake.**

car. We are not providing many realistic options.

The Maricopa County Department of Transportation Bicycle Transportation System Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors in May of 1999, sets as policy that MCDOT shall include bicycle facilities on all County roadways. As a matter of policy, the City of Phoenix puts bike lanes on all new arterial streets. As other agencies follow suit, a valley-wide, seamless network will develop that will allow bicycling to become a more viable form of alternative transportation.

The purpose of bike lanes should be to improve conditions for bicyclists on the street. Bike lanes delineate the right of way assigned to bicyclists and motorists and should provide for more predictable movements by each. Bike lanes help to increase the total capacity of the street. If there is not a bike lane and the outside lane is too narrow for a bike and car to safely share, the motorist must slow until a safe lane change can be made. On streets with bike lanes, the motorist can safely pass a cyclist without slowing or changing lanes.

In Maricopa County, approximately 1.5 percent of the trips to work are by bicycle. This means that nearly 40,000 adults are

pedaling almost 450,000 miles every day. In the City of Tempe, with an extensive bicycle network, the percentage of work trips by bicycle is about 4.5 percent. The City of Tucson is consistently ranked as one of the best cities in North America to bicycle. Both communities have integrated bicycles into their routine planning process. Both communities have demonstrated that if you put in facilities where people need to go, they will be used.

Putting bicycle lanes on arterial streets is a sound engineering practice. The AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities states:

*All highways, except those where cyclists are legally prohibited, should be designed and constructed under the assumption that they will be used by cyclists. Therefore, bicycles should be considered in all phases of transportation planning, new roadway design, roadway reconstruction, and capacity improvement and transit projects.*

Each year adults in Maricopa County ride an estimated 200 million miles on their bicycles for work and recreation. Bike lanes help make those miles a little safer.

Sources:

AASHTO Task Force on Geometric Design. *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities*. Washington, D.C. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. 1999.

Maricopa County, AZ. Maricopa County Department of Transportation Bicycle Transportation System Plan. MCDOT.1999.

## USDOT Strategic Plan

The only mention of bicycling and walking in latest USDOT Strategic Plan comes in the form of a commitment to make the fronts of cars more bicycle and pedestrian friendly. If you would like to comment on this plan, go to

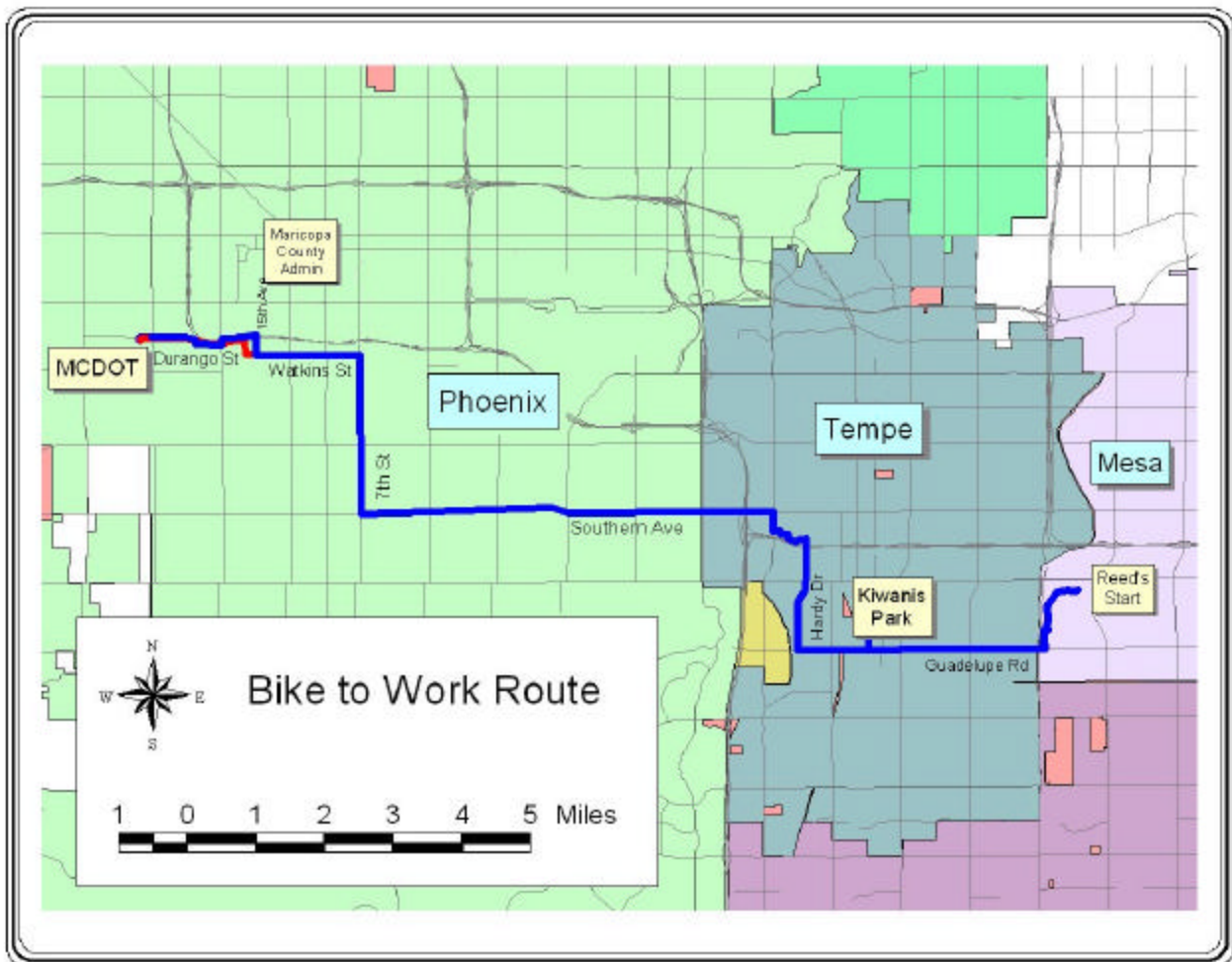
<http://stratplan.dot.gov/>

You are given the chance to submit comments electronically when you click on any of the individual chapters or across the complete document.

## Bike To Work Day April 12, 2000

If you are going to ride your bike to work on April 12 (or any other day), here are some basic tips to make your ride safer.

- \* **BE PREDICTABLE.** When cyclists remember to follow the same “rules of the road” as motorists, both know what to expect of each other and can cooperate in sharing the road.
- \* **BE SEEN.** Wear bright clothing, use appropriate front and rear lights and/or reflectors, and position your bike in the portion of the lane where it is most likely that you will be seen. Establish and hold your position so that motorists can anticipate your location.
- \* **BE AWARE.** Never count on eye contact as a sign the driver has seen you. An experienced rider makes a practice of looking ahead and anticipating situations in road conditions, traffic, and any potential hazard (car doors open or vehicles emerging from driveways). Do not use headphones when you ride.
- \* **WEAR A HELMET.**



## Bike to Work Day to MCDOT

For those energetic individuals who decide to leave the car at home for a day and ride with Reed to work, here is the route. Meet at Kiwanis Park in Tempe at 6:30 a.m. for about a 15 mile ride to MCDOT. Showers are available in the gym. If you don't want to carry your work clothes, take them in your car the day before the ride. The return trip to Tempe will leave MCDOT at 4:30 p.m. Please go to the following web site for more details on Bike-to-Work Day and a copy of the release form for county employees.

[https://ebc.maricopa.gov/empcorner/pdf/bike\\_to\\_work.pdf](https://ebc.maricopa.gov/empcorner/pdf/bike_to_work.pdf)

### *On your left!*

Now that winter is over (it was cold for a couple of weeks) and perfect cycling weather is here again. It is time to air up the tires, lube the chain, dust off the seat, and start pedaling that bike you've had stored in the garage. If you ride the trails be courteous to horses and rattlesnakes. If you ride the roads be predictable. If you have a question about bicycling in Maricopa County, send a message to [reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:reedkempston@mail.maricopa.gov).

Meanwhile, if you're one of the 45,000 county cyclists riding to work every day or thinking about riding to work on April 12, wave when we meet on the road.

*Reed*